

PATTI LOGSDON

COUNTY BOARD COMMITTEES

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Friends and Neighbors,

It is a privilege to represent you as Milwaukee County's 9th District Supervisor as we continue to navigate challenging times living with the mandated directives of the COVID-19 pandemic. It doesn't matter your political affiliation or your beliefs on viruses, vaccinations, or masks, we have all been affected by decisions that have been made by leadership from all levels of government.

For nearly two years, this County Board encountered situations never imagined before. Through tough decisions and hard work, this board persevered. Just as personal budgets have been affected, so too have government budgets. Pools across the county have been closed during a very warm summer, something no one likes to see. I will do everything I can to avoid another summer without open pools. As always, I will continue to look for opportunities to save tax dollars, while being conscious of quality-of-life services you and I have come to enjoy and deserve as taxpayers.

I will continue to advocate on behalf of our treasured parks and fight to secure the necessary funding to ensure public safety. As challenging as it has been, there is plenty to be thankful for.

On July 26, I had the pleasure of attending a groundbreaking ceremony to commemorate the life of the late Margaret "Margie" Kezman, a local teacher who passed in May 2019. Margaret's husband, Tim Kezman wanted to do something special to honor his beloved wife. Thus, emerged "Margie's Garden," located at Whitnall Park's Boerner Botanical Gardens. See photo inset below.

Designed by Milwaukee-based New Eden Landscape Architecture, the \$2 million garden will include an "Enchanted Village" complete with a playhouse, a bug garden with interactive friendly bug sculptures, and a stone and wood "troll bridge." Margie's Garden is scheduled to open to the public in summer 2022. A special thank you to Mr. Kezman for the generous contribution which will be enjoyed by visitors of all ages.

Another positive development in Milwaukee County is the Bus Rapid Transit Project (BRT), which will link the Milwaukee Regional Medical Center to downtown Milwaukee. Milwaukee County Transit System (MCTS) hosted a groundbreaking ceremony in June to kick off the east-west BRT construction project.

The nine-mile BRT route will allow MCTS to better connect major employment, education, and recreation destinations through downtown Milwaukee, Marquette University, Milwaukee's near west side, Wauwatosa, and the Milwaukee Regional Medical Center. BRT passengers will enjoy more efficient, higher frequency service thanks to the utilization of all-electric buses, dedicated bus lanes, traffic signal priority, off-board fare collection, optimized station locations, raised platforms that allow for easy boarding, and other exciting amenities.

I hope you find time to enjoy my 2021 Fall Newsletter along with the beautiful fall weather! Now is a great time to visit one of our many county parks or visit the beautiful Boerner Botanical Gardens.

Thank you for trusting me to humbly serve as your voice in county government. I am excited about the future of Hales Corners, Franklin, and Oak Creek and welcome you to reach out to me anytime with questions or concerns you may have.

Sincerely,

Patti Logsdon
Milwaukee County Supervisor, District #9

Margie's Garden



From left to right, project donors - the Tim Kezman Family, President/ CEO of Friends of Boerner Botanical Gardens Ellen Hayward, Supervisor Patti Logsdon, Boerner Botanical Gardens Garden Director Shirley Walczak, and Parks Director Guy Smith.

Local, State, and Federal officials gathered on June 10, 2021 for a groundbreaking ceremony for MCTS's East-West Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) project.

Difficult 2022 County Budget

Setting and adopting a balanced budget is the most important task that the Milwaukee County Board of Supervisors take on each year. Milwaukee County's budget continues to be further complicated by an ongoing structural deficit caused by state revenue caps and the increased cost of state mandated services. On average, county revenues grow by only 1% per year while expenses are expected to increase by 2.4%, the rate of inflation.

Rising to the challenge of adopting a balanced budget each year, Milwaukee County has closed budget gaps of approximately \$300 million over the past decade. The county has done this by reducing its real estate footprint by 1.6 million square feet, reducing staff by 1,400 employees, and deferring \$35 million in maintenance, among other measures. This has unfortunately led to reductions in services countywide, including in our parks, buses, and public safety functions.

Milwaukee County will receive a total of \$183 million in federal funds from the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA). ARPA will provide the county with a needed boost in funds to help recover from the economy crippling pandemic mandates, but the county's actual revenue loss is estimated to be nearly double the amount received from ARPA.

Milwaukee County continues to advocate for additional revenue options to fund local priorities. Governor Tony Evers included a proposal in his 2021-2023 state budget that would allow counties to raise their sales tax by ½ percent if approved by voters through a referendum process, but this proposal was not included in the adopted state budget.

You can find out how to help solve Milwaukee County's mounting budget issues by visiting [moveforwardmke.com](https://www.moveforwardmke.com).

County Establishes Independent Body to Manage 2020 Redistricting

The U.S. Constitution requires elected officials to revise and redraw political districts in the United States every ten years. This process, known as redistricting and reapportionment, takes place at the local, state, and federal level. The process is based on the results of the decennial census, which tracks population growth or decline, as well as changes in demographic data.

The Board of Supervisors established the Milwaukee County Independent Redistricting Committee (IRC) comprised of retired judges, "to maintain the integrity of the redistricting process and to mitigate any conflicts of interest or claims of politicization."

The IRC has directed staff from the Southeastern Wisconsin Regional Planning Commission, which is providing technical support in the form of map-making expertise, to draft maps without consideration for current maps or incumbent office holders, and to work from well-established guiding principles. Those principles, in priority order, are maintaining voting rights as defined in the 1965 Voting Rights Act, maintaining the continuity of existing city or village lines (municipal boundaries), maintaining equal population of residents across districts, and establishing compact and contiguous districts.

The Independent Redistricting Committee invites the public to attend all meetings and provide their input and feedback on the process and proposed maps. The Board of Supervisors is expected to finalize the new supervisory district map by November 23, in advance of the start of the nomination process for Spring elections, which begins on Dec. 1. For more information about how to share your input with the Committee, visit www.County.Milwaukee.gov/PublicCommentAdHoc

MCTS Amazon Route 81 a Success

The first year of Route 81, which connects Milwaukee County residents with jobs at Amazon's fulfillment center in Oak Creek, has been a big success over the past year providing 20,000 rides between the City of Milwaukee and Amazon MKE2 facility. This means that Amazon employees have depended on Route 81 to get to AND from work 10,000 times!



Route 81 (Amazon-Oak Creek) began service on October 11, 2020, operating seven days a week between the intersections of N. 35th Street & W. Fond du Lac Avenue in Milwaukee and S. 13th Street & W. Ryan Road in Oak Creek. Buses have stops on portions of W. Fond du Lac Avenue, N. 17th Street, W. Walnut Street, and North and South 6th Street. In addition to operating along those busy corridors, Route 81 also connects with 19 existing MCTS bus routes. This means passengers who use Routes 12, 14, 18, 19, 21, 22, 30, 31, 33, 34, 35, 56, 57, 66, 80, GoldLine, BlueLine and PurpleLine can transfer to Route 81 from neighborhoods across the County.

MCTS worked closely with officials from Amazon and the City of Oak Creek to make sure the route's schedule synchronizes with employee shift times at the facility. I am and will continue to be a strong supporter of funding Route 81.

Making Milwaukee County a Better Place

Supervisor Logsdon's 2021 Legislative Highlights

- **21-782** - A resolution requesting the Director, Department of Parks, Recreation, and Culture provide an informational report outlining specific plans to proactively recruit lifeguards for 2022, long-term plans to develop and attract lifeguards in the future and plans to actively address staffing issues that led to event cancellations throughout 2021. *Adopted 9/23/2021*

- **21-556** - A resolution authorizing and directing the Department of Human Resources, the Office of the Comptroller, and the Department of Parks, Recreation, and Culture reallocate the pay grades for all lifeguard positions, provide retention bonuses, cover training costs for lifeguards, and create a new seasonal park worker position to attract new hires and encourage employee retention. *Adopted 7/29/2021*

- **21-489** - A resolution authorizing the creation of an Engineering Tech - Surveyor position and the replacement of outdated, inefficient equipment with modern technology. *Adopted 6/24/2021*

- **21-383** - A resolution designating May as annual Violence Prevention Month in Milwaukee County, increasing awareness about violence prevention, and urging residents of Milwaukee County, non-profit organizations, and faith-based organizations to promote efforts to decrease violence within communities. *Adopted 5/20/2021*

For more details about the above legislation, visit the County Legislative Information Center at: county.milwaukee.gov/CLIC

Franklin: Oakwood Solar Panels

The Milwaukee County Parks Department is working with We Energies to have a 540-kilowatt solar farm installed on a three-acre parcel of land at the Oakwood Golf Course in Franklin. Upon completion, the solar farm would be the largest solar installation on Milwaukee County owned property. WE Energies "Solar Now" a pilot-program approved by the Public Service Commission authorizing the WE Energies to partner with venues like Milwaukee County to install solar systems on unused land or existing infrastructure. Under the terms of the agreement, the utility would make lease payments to the county totaling approximately \$25,000 annually for the land. At no cost to the county and the lease payments, barring any cuts to the tax levy, would reduce the department's reliance on the tax levy and the county would receive approximately 875 Renewable Energy Credits permitting the county to expend some of the green energy produced at the solar farm.

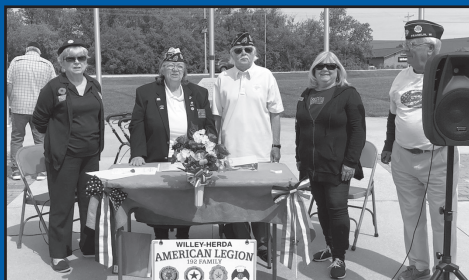
Hales Corners: Hales Corners Park Cleanup

On May 8th, volunteers from around Hales Corners gathered to give Hales Corners Park a thorough spring cleaning. An amazing number of you (over 75!) showed up and hauled away multiple large garbage bags of trash. A special thank you to all of you who helped, especially the large groups of volunteers from the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints, Whitnall Middle School, and the many faithful members of the Friends of Hales Corners Park and Pool. Thank you also to the Parks Department for coordinating with the Friends group to get the volunteers the supplies they need!

Oak Creek: Falk Park

Milwaukee County's Department of Transportation (MCDOT) is seeking to replace the North Maintenance Facility, which was originally built in 1872. In order to replace the building, MCDOT will need to annex a small portion of Schoenecker Park. To compensate the Parks Department for this annexation, MCDOT plans to improve Schoenecker Park by replacing or moving trees in the annex area, install retention ponds to improve the ballpark fields, and replace the gravel parking lot with paved parking including lighting. Excitingly for District 9 residents, MCDOT also plans to make up for the lost natural habitat by purchasing 7 acres of prime natural habitat land from the State for \$1 and add it to Oak Creek's Falk Park. MCDOT is currently waiting for Board approval. I am excited to support the expansion of one of our District's parks!

Memorial Day in Franklin



Supervisor Logsdon recognized Memorial Day with the American Legion.

4th of July in Oak Creek



Supervisor Logsdon enjoyed the 4th of July festivities in Oak Creek.

Hales Corners Park Cleanup



Supervisor Logsdon joined over 75 volunteers to clean up Hales Corners Park.



9TH DISTRICT MILWAUKEE COUNTY SUPERVISOR

PATTI LOGSDON

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Couture Groundbreaking



Supervisor Logsdon took part in the Couture groundbreaking with Supervisor Russell Anotnio Goodwin, Sr. (left) and developer Rick Barrett.

9th District Capital Improvement Updates

Parks Trade Staff Efficient with Public Resources

The Boerner Garden House is the former administration building within Boerner Botanical gardens that was built in 1930's and currently serves as a rental facility for small gatherings and as a part of wedding ceremonies. In 2017, the steam boiler began to leak and minor repairs were made until 2020 when the unit would not function due to a blockage in the chimney (another costly repair!). Parks was awarded \$105,418 in design funding in the 2021 budget (WP72901) to replace the steam system with a hot water boiler. Parks trades staff reviewed the scope of the project in preparation for bid and brought forth a proposal to complete the project in-house.

The proposal was approved by the capital finance team in April, equipment was ordered, and installation began in mid-June. Installation was completed by mid-August and the project is complete. Parks staff was able to complete the entire project for under \$106,000 and within the same year the funding was approved. Most capital projects require a full year of design and then must wait almost another year for construction funding due to annual budget timeframes. The excellent work of the Milwaukee County Parks trades staff prevented the need for extensive chimney repair and a subsequent year of capital funding (estimated at over \$676,000). The new boiler far outpaces the previous system, occupies less footprint within the building, is safer and easier to maintain, while increasing the comfort for park patrons and staff alike.

CLIC



**COUNTY LEGISLATIVE
INFORMATION CENTER**

For legislative files, agendas, minutes and schedules for all Milwaukee County committee and board meetings, please visit the County Legislative Information Center at:

county.milwaukee.gov/CLIC

Lift Station Project In progress

The Oak Creek Skate sanitary lift station- located in the pavilion at the Mill Pond in the Oak Creek Parkway was installed in 1934 and has reached the end of its serviceable life and has been identified needing replacement prior to possible failure. The design will include the creation of construction plans, specifications, and a construction estimate. 2022 - 2025 Scope of Work: The scope of work includes the replacement of the sanitary lift station and force main at the Oak Creek comfort building located on the Mill Pond.

The Oakwood Park Golf Course sanitary lift station- was installed in 1976 and has reached the end of its serviceable life and has been identified needing replacement prior to possible failure. The design will include the replacement of the sanitary sewer lift station at Oakwood Park including replacement of the entire sanitary sewer force main. 2022 – 2025 scope of work: construction activities to remove existing lift station and install a new station abandoning the existing force main and replacing it with a new system.

Get up-to-date information on **FREE**
Milwaukee County Attractions at:



county.milwaukee.gov/freedays